

Hi George,

Thanks for everything. I am very grateful to you.

I am so sorry that you got involved in this situation. I never expected any of this to happen, especially to you. I am truly sorry and hopefully one day you can accept my apologies.

I have made some decisions that will affect the people in my life. I have decided to “give in” too whatever Surren wants. I know he wants a divorce but only under his terms and conditions, so he can file the papers himself rather than I. “Control Issues.” So I have decided endure this misery. I will put on the ring, put on a smile and pretend everything is “great.” I have been doing this act for several years, now. With this decision, he will never harass/ bother you again, Branden will not be affect yet and I will just deal with it.

In the 9 years I have know Surren, I have never cheated on him. It has never occurred to me to do something that cruel and dishonest. We met at a party while I was in college and developed a friendship. I made sure he was aware that I was focused on my education. My parents wanted me to have a good education, but also enjoy my life as well. Surren and I dated for 4 years and decided to get married in 2004. Maybe at 26 years old, I was too young to get married. I was so focused on my education that I was naïve to the reality of what he truly was and is. We both had completely different agendas in life. But I had made a commitment to him and I was going to ignore the obvious.

About a year after our marriage my grandmother passed away and I began to notice changes in him during that time. I was so grateful to him that he flew down to the Caribbean with for the funeral. But during that trip, I noticed he was flirting with a lot of women which was fine as long as you do not take the next step. I will give him the benefit of the doubt that it was only harmless flirting.

Another year went by; we travelled and worked on our careers. Surren decided that he wanted to further his education with a MA or PhD. I was so proud of his decision and encouraged him. So I decided to take some time off from my PhD to support his education. “It’s so funny how people forget what others have done and given up to watch them succeed.” In 2006, I found out I was pregnant. It was the best news ever – definitely planned. Pregnancy was great with no issues until Branden decided he wanted out . . . I think it was all the M&Ms I was eating. Because of Branden prematurity, we had a tough battle going back and forth to the hospital. I remember spending 12 – 16hr at the hospital each day, but it was all worth it in the end. I call him the energizer bunny. My friends say he is definitely my son . . . he never stops and always has a smile.

After Branden’s birth, Surren and I drifted apart. Our relationship took a wrong turn and he stopped communicating with me and was never close to me. I suspected he was cheating on me but had no proof. I was so busy with my son, work and life in general that I did not pay attention to the signs. I knew he continued to see other women, but I

was too scared to confront him. So I got up everyday put on the ring, the smile and pretended everything was OK.

A year ago, I became pregnant again, unfortunately at 5 months; I lost my baby girl, Alyssa. She was perfectly healthy and doctors could not figure out what happened. I think my dad said it best "Just was not meant to be." I could not stop apologizing to Surren for the lost of our baby girl . . . my greatest disappointment in life. But instead of grieving with me, he sought comfort elsewhere. I had to take care of the autopsy and funeral arrangements myself . . . which actually made me a strong and more confident person. I remember walking into Julie's office and she started crying. . . I told her I have shed enough tears for all of us and have made my peace. I saw her and said my goodbyes. . . and 10 years later, I will never wonder what if. Being poked and probed for the next several months was not fun, but Surren was never around. Still the doctors cannot figure out what the hell happened.

After all of this, I evaluated my life and Branden's future. I was definitely unhappy. I was not the Annie everyone knew . . . always happy and had a smile. I missed that. I did not realize how badly he treated me and how condescending he was. So I decided to separate which he had no objections too. We decided to stay in the house for Branden's sake and it actually works out better. He stays in the master room and as for me my guest room is fine. Except when I have guest staying over, I have to bunk with a 3 year old. It is actually kind of funny. I only have one rule. . do not bring your women friends at the house. I thought I made this separation issue easy, he can have the house and the material items with it. I will have custody of Branden and he can see him at anytime, do not really care about visitation. Surren loves Branden a lot and I will not try to hinder that bond. I wanted this divorce to be very quick and simple process for both of us, but obviously he decided to stoop to a new low. He has been reading my text messages and email at work ones and maybe my Gmail account. He is definitely an intelligent man. He emailed my parents and told them he will file for divorce in 6 months and was gracious enough to CC me the email. Know what I am perfectly content with that decision.

Anyways, this is the entire situation, at least my side. Whatever your reaction is to this letter. . . it is OK. I am blessed with wonderful parents, a great son and great friends. The simple pleasures in life are always better. Branden always put a smile on my face. Every Saturday and Sunday, he would get up at 7:00 am and into my room and say lets make breakfast. It is a great joy to cook with him and enjoy our meal. My mother worries about my future. . it will be fine. She is funny. I understand my future: divorce with a kid . . . perfectly fine with that concept. Most guys would not want to have the burden of women with a kid. Oh well. Life will definitely be different, but enjoyable (at least for me.) Branden had no doubt that he is loved and spoilt by both sides of the family, esp. my dad.

After reading Surren's text to you, there are no words to express how I felt (well, there is one, basically called me a whore). But there is only problem, I have not done anything. Still, it is not a nice feeling. I guess that is how he has treated me for past few years.

And I have been too nice and gullible. I am truly sorry about all of this. You were just trying to be a supportive friend. Thanks for trying to be there for me, George.

I can not give you relationship advice, hence my situation, but do not make the same mistakes I made. You work tremendously hard, and let no one tell you otherwise. It is a great characteristic. I wish more people possess that same ambition. In the short time I have known you; you have displayed sincere kindness and caring that I wish all guys would have. Make sure someone appreciates and respects that. . it is very difficult to find in today's society. Let know one tell that you are too nice. I finally began to genuinely smile and laugh when I talk to you. I was finally begun to open up to someone (meaning you) about life in general, because you are easy to talk too. Although, it was short lived, I appreciate you as a friend and confidant. And for that I will always be grateful. Thanks.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and I know that you will success in everything you set your mind to.

Sincerely,

Annie